



Wisconsin Builders Association

Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting the American Dream

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Gerard Deschane

Memorandum

TO: Senator Robson, Representative Grothman and members of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules

FROM: Jerry Deschane

DATE: February 1, 2001

RE: Wisconsin adoption of the IFC and other ICC codes

WBA Supports the ICC Codes

The Wisconsin Builders Association supports adoption of the International Fire Code, International Building Code, and the other codes that make up the ICC "suite." Our organization has spent hundreds of hours of both volunteer time and paid consultant time, reviewing the proposed codes. We started from a position of opposition to the ICC codes. However, as a result of this long and detailed review, the WBA is convinced that the ICC suite of codes will provide Wisconsin with the best possible combination of public health and safety, while preserving design flexibility for builders.

Wisconsin's code process is fair

Wisconsin's building code development process is one of the most inclusive processes in the country. Eight different citizen councils, made up of representatives of more than 40 different disciplines, have spent the last three or four years reviewing and debating the ICC suite of codes. The Councils are not dominated by any single interest group. Every one of those councils voted to adopt the ICC codes.

This challenge will harm that process

If the Legislature sides with just one of those 40 interest groups, the entire process of building code development is in jeopardy. What incentive, after all, will the Wisconsin Builders Association ever again have to work with firefighters, building inspectors, consumer advocates and others on a compromise code if we can "end run" that process by going to the legislature? Does the legislature truly want to be thrust into the role of jury every time groups disagree over a technical building standard? We submit that is not the right way to develop something as complex as a building code.

Affirm the citizen-input process, take no action

We urge this committee to take no action on the adoption of the ICC codes. Thank you for considering our viewpoint.



NAHB



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS
131 W Wilson St, Suite 502 Madison, WI 53703 608-257-WACE FAX: 608-257-0009
(9223)

February 19, 2001

Senator Judy Robson and Representative Glenn Grothman. Co-chairmen
Joint Committee on Review of Administrative Rules
Wisconsin State Legislature
Madison, WI

RE: Wisconsin Department of Commerce Proposed State Building Code

Dear Senator Robson and Representative Grothman:

The Wisconsin Association of Consulting Engineers (WACE) is the business voice of the Wisconsin consulting engineering industry. We represent 64 firms that employ more than 3500 engineers, architects, geologists, and other highly educated and experienced design professionals in the state.

WACE supports the adoption of the International Building Code and the related suite of international model codes as the state building code in Wisconsin. We believe the adoption of the IBC in Wisconsin will enhance state code requirements, improve code understanding, compliance and enforcement. It will help facilitate future code updates and ultimately benefit state consumers.

WACE commends the Safety & Buildings Division staff and members of the advisory code councils for their careful and thorough review of the proposed code provisions. WACE is pleased that our member firms were included in the process. The review has not been an easy task, taking more than three years. We encourage a speedy adoption of the proposed building codes.

WACE encourages the Department of Commerce to allocate sufficient resources for the successful implementation of the proposed code. In addition to funding staff training we encourage the department to allocate resources to provide convenient educational training opportunities for consulting engineers, architects, and other design and construction professionals.

Roccy Raymond

Roccy Raymond, PE
WACE President
Short Elliott Hendrickson

WSFCA Fire Prevention Code Committee

Summary of Comparison of ICC & NFPA

March 5, 1999

Question #1 - What is Their Fire Prevention Philosophy?

NFPA -

- Fire Prevention Code Function
- Reduce the Burden of Fire on the Quality of Life.
- NFPA Believes the Fire Official Should Be the AHJ
- Fire Official's Authority Should Begin Before Construction Starts
- Fire Prevention is the Mission
- NFPA Exists for Fire Prevention
- Provide Public Education
- Conducts Research
- Fire Official Should Have Authority Over Fire Protection Features In New Construction As Well As In Existing Buildings
- The Roots of Their Philosophy is Fire Codes

ICC -

- Code Official is the AHJ
- Focused on Buildings & Operations
- ICC Exists to Create Codes and to Support Code Officials
- Creating Code For Minimum Requirements
- Building Code & Building Maintenance
- The Roots of Their Philosophy is Building Codes

Question #2 - Describe the Code Development Process

NFPA -

- Consensus Process
- Balanced Technical Committees
- Anyone Can Participate in the Development Process
- Must Be A Member To Vote
- ANSI Recognized
- Fire Safety Professionals In Private Sector Have Input
- Only 1/3 of Committee Can Represent A Single Interest Group

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March 5, 1999

Fire Prevention Code Comparison

Question #2 - Describe the Code Development Process

ICC -

- Anyone Can Participate in the Development Process
- Must Be A Member To Vote
- Never Did Receive An Adequate Explanation of the Process
- Could Buy As Many Memberships As Wanted
- Board Could Turn Over Vote of Members
- Code Officials Make Up A Minimum of 50% of Committee Membership
- Only Code Officials Are Allowed To Vote
- Fire Safety Professionals Have Limited Input Unless They Are Code Officials
- Conflict of Interest Issue - Can't Participate In Committee Discussion or Votes

Question # 3 - What Is the Compatibility With Other Nationally Recognized Codes Used In the United States?

NFPA -

- No Companion Building Code
- Would Need To Have Language That More Restrictive Code Would Be Used
- This Process Has Been Successful In Other States

ICC -

- The ICC Produces Codes Which Are Compatible With Each Other
-

Question # 4 - Please Describe User Support for State Agencies as well as Local Fire Departments That Adopt Your Code.

NFPA-

- No charge for support during the adoption process
- Complimentary copies of NFPA 1 & 101 to those doing comparisons
- Adoption - Provide technical code interpretations to code enforcers.
- Proven history of being a strong support agency with excellent materials

Question # 4 - Please Describe User Support for State Agencies as well as Local Fire Departments That Adopt Your Code.

ICC -

- Appears to be based on membership, fees, and outside contractors.
- Full Membership required for benefits- Which include access to staff for verbal and written interpretations & help with plan reviews
-

Question # 5 - What is the Initial and Ongoing Training That will be Available for the State and Local Fire Departments

NFPA -

- Free Training to State and Local Fire Departments consisting of:
2 days on NFPA 1 & 4 days on NFPA 101.
- Additional Training available for other NFPA Codes
- Refresher Training on 3rd Year Cycles
- Training Conducted by NFPA Staff or Approved Staff

ICC -

- Training & Certification Department offers seminars and certification programs
- Co-Sponsors & Contracts For Seminars
- Trainers may be anyone with Knowledge

Question # 6 - How Often would the Groups Update Their Codes?

NFPA -

- Codes are Updated Every Three Years

ICC -

- Codes are Updated Every Three Years

Question # 7 - What Other State Have Adopted The Code?

NFPA -

- Nine States Have Adopted the Code and Eight Other States Are in the Process of Adoption.

ICC-

- No State has Adopted the Code because the IFC is not a Final Code

Question # 8 - What Does the Organization See As a Major Drawback Of Their Code?

NFPA -

- None identified. Can be Addressed via Proposals, Comments, and TIA's.

ICC -

- The IFC is not the Only Model Fire Code
- Non-existing Document with More Questions Than Answers

Question # 9 - What Are Considered the Major Advantages of the Code?

NFPA -

- NFPA 1 was Written w/Help of Fire Marshall's Association of North America to strengthen the technical requirements, and make it easier to use.
- Code has Stood the Test of Time.
- Existing Working Document.

ICC -

- Totally Compatible Family of Codes. These Would Have To Be Adopted

Question # 10 - What are the General Automatic Fire Sprinkler Requirements of the Code?

NFPA -

- Retroactively of Sprinklers in Some Buildings in Both NFPA 1 and 101.
- Not An Easy Comparison to Complete

ICC -

- Sprinklers Requirements Are Not Retroactive
-

Question # 11 - What Impact Does the Organization Foresee On Small to Medium Departments?

NPFA -

- Provides Authority to Those Ready and Willing to Accept It.
- Ability to Enforce the Code is Not Dependent on Funding

ICC -

- BOCA will establish and Offer Training at a Cost Working Within the State.

Question # 12 - What is the Philosophy Towards Fire Prevention In Existing Buildings?

NFPA -

- Fire Code Official Must Declare A "Special Hazard or Hazardous Condition" Exists.
- Provisions in NFPA 101 Address This Through "Comprehensive Technical Guidance For Existing Occupancies.
- Only Fire Code That Requires New and Existing High-rise Buildings To Be Fully Sprinklered.
- Has a Good Philosophy and Provides a Mechanism and a Means for Implementation of that Philosophy.

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March 5, 1999

Fire Prevention Code Comparison

Question # 12 - What is the Philosophy Towards Fire Prevention In
Existing Buildings?

ICC -

- Says It Is Essential and Mandatory. Offers Little To Assist With Enforcement.
- Believes Fire Prevention In Existing Buildings "Should Be Mandatory".
- "Code Official" (Fire or Building) May Allow Existing Conditions To Continue If They " Do Not Constitute A Distinct Hazard To Life and Property."
- Doesn't Seem To Be Direction Found (As In NFPA 1 & 101) To "Update" Existing Buildings.

Fire Service Involvement in Commerce Advisory Groups

February 16, 2001

Since 1997, the Department of Commerce has been working with advisory code councils considering the adoption of national model codes. Additionally, during the same period of time, other code councils and task groups met to discuss other fire safety related projects and code revisions.

Below is a table showing Commerce advisory code councils and task groups that have fire service representatives on them. The number of fire service members in each advisory group and the number of meetings is also shown. Thirty-nine fire service representatives have been involved and participated in the current code development process since January 1997. 108 meetings of code councils and task groups have been held since January 1997.

Council/Task Group Name	# of Fire Service Participants	# of Meetings since Jan. 1997
Commercial Building Code Council	2 of 14 members	21
Elevator Code Council	1 of 10 members	13
Explosive Materials Code Council	1 of 7 members	6
Fire Department Dues Task Group	6 of 7 members	7
Fire Department Health and Safety Code Council	7 of 7 members	3
Fire Incident Reporting Task Group	6 of 12 members	3
Fire Protection Systems Plan Review Task Group	4 of 8 members	2
Fire Safety Code Council	5 of 11 members	20
Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code Council	2 of 10 members	3
Gas Systems Code Council	2 of 11 members	4
Means of Egress Code Council	1 of 9 members	6
Multifamily Dwelling Code Council	2 of 14 members	20
Totals of all groups	39 of 120 members	108



Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

Together We Can Make A Difference

- Education
- Prevention
- Safety
- Suppression
- EMS

DAVID
FYI

DATE: January 30, 2001
TO: Wisconsin Legislators
FROM: WI State Fire Chiefs Assoc.
RE: Support Delay of Code Adoption

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association (WSFCA) asks that you support delaying the adoption of any new model building or fire codes until a comprehensive comparison can be completed. The two-model suites of codes which we are requesting a comparison of are the International Code Council (ICC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The WSFCA has participated in the various Department of Commerce code councils over the past two years to select a new model building and fire code for the State of Wisconsin but our concerns have not been heard during these council sessions.

The Department of Commerce and the Commercial Code Council has recommended that the State of Wisconsin adopt the ICC codes. The WSFCA recommends a delay in the adoption of any model code until a comparison of the ICC and the NFPA suite of codes can be completed for the following reasons.

- 1) The ICC has been in existence for approximately 6 years and a building has never been built in the U.S. under the International Building Code. The NFPA has been in existence for over 100 years and is referenced over 100 times in the ICC codes.
- 2) The WSFCA has compared the two fire codes (the International Fire Code and the National Fire Protection Association 1/101) and determined that the code, which will protect the citizens and firefighters of Wisconsin best, is NFPA 1/101.
- 3) NFPA uses the consensus process in creating and reviewing its codes through the various technical committees, which have no more than one-third representation from any interest group as members. The ICC code review is not a consensus process and the representative is usually the local Building Inspector.
- 4) NFPA has offered to provide training for inspectors and codebooks at no cost. It has been estimated that the ICC training and codebooks will cost \$2 - \$3 million. One of the sources identified by the Department of Commerce for that training is the fire department's 2% dues fund.

The Wisconsin Fire & EMS Coalition, an organization made of the WI State Fire Chiefs Association, the Professional Firefighters of WI, the WI Society of Fire Service Instructors, WI State Firefighters Association, the WI Chapter of the International Arson Investigators Association, the WI Emergency Medical Services Association, WI Fire Chiefs Education Association and the WI Fire Inspectors Association, supports delaying adoption of any model code for the State of Wisconsin until a comparison of the model codes is completed.

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association is committed to maintaining the highest level of safety in our state. We ask that you support our efforts in delaying the adoption of the ICC Codes until a comparison can be completed. If you have any questions, please contact;

David Bloom, Legislative Liaison
WI State Fire Chiefs Association
2120 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Madison, WI 53713
608-210-7218 wk
608-210-7235 FAX.



Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

Together We Can Make A Difference

- Education
- Prevention
- Safety
- Suppression
- EMS

January 26, 2001

The Honorable Judith Robson
Wisconsin State Senator
Room 15 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Robson,

As a member of the Wisconsin legislature, I appreciate your consistent efforts in supporting the highest level of fire safety in our state. For this reason, I want to provide you with an update to the ongoing debate regarding the adoption of our state codes, and the position that Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association is taking on behalf of fire safety in Wisconsin.

Last year, the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association and other members of the Wisconsin fire service recommended to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce that it adopt the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 1, *Fire Prevention Code* and its companion document, NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*. Organizations representing the fire service and numerous emergency services organizations have joined in support of NFPA 1 and 101 including the Wisconsin Fire/EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition. This coalition is made up of the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association, the Wisconsin Fire Chiefs' Education Association, the Wisconsin Fire Inspectors' Association, the Wisconsin Society of Fire Service Investigators, the Wisconsin Chiefs' International Arson Investigators Association, the Wisconsin State Fire Fighters' Association, Professional Fire Fighters' of Wisconsin, Inc., and the Wisconsin EMS.

We have recently learned that the Department of Commerce intends to move forward immediately with the adoption of the International Code Council's (ICC) version of these codes, the *International Fire Code* as well as the *International Building Code*. The Department is taking this action despite a vote by the Fire Safety Code Council, an advisory committee to the Department of Commerce, to conduct a complete side-by-side review of both the IFC and NFPA codes before rendering a final decision.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce's efforts to fast track adoption of these codes is in complete disregard to the concerns of our association, and the rest of the Wisconsin fire service. In fact, the state fire chiefs have gone on record as opposing the adoption of these codes because we know that unlike the ICC, NFPA 1 and 101 are time-tested, proven documents developed by a consensus process with significant fire service input. NFPA 101 is also the most comprehensive code addressing existing properties – which is of paramount concern to the fire service – and it is used in all 50 states.

P.O. Box 44743, Madison, WI 53744-4743
Phone: 1-800-375-5886 Fax: 608-274-8262

The Honorable Judith Robson

January 26, 2001

Page Two

Members of the Wisconsin fire service support NFPA's codes and standards because of the unique, inclusive, consensus process used to develop its codes and standards. Every person in the state of Wisconsin, including members of the Wisconsin Senate and House, along with their constituents, has the right to fully participate and vote in NFPA's code- and standard-development process. Yet, despite the immense value of the NFPA codes and standards, and the process by which they are developed, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce is taking steps to adopt the fire and building codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC does not allow organizations such as the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association to vote on its codes. In fact, the ICC only allows government code enforcers – primarily building code officials – to vote during the code development process. In our opinion, the issues affected by safety codes are simply too important to leave in the hands of building code officials alone.

Furthermore, adoption of the ICC codes would come at a significant cost to Wisconsin taxpayers. Adoption of the aforementioned NFPA codes would occur at no cost to the taxpayers. NFPA will provide all Wisconsin government enforcers who attend our free training sessions complimentary copies of these documents. This no-cost offer will be repeated each time the state adopts updated editions of the codes. This ensures that every jurisdiction in the state, regardless of its size or resources, will have up-to-date codes and receive training from the top experts in the field. There really is no other code organization willing to make this commitment.

In summary, we ask that you support Wisconsin fire service members by opposing the Department of Commerce's actions to fast track the ICC codes. Please urge the Department of Commerce to fairly consider NFPA's fire prevention and building codes by allowing a fair comparison to determine which codes are truly in the best interest of our citizens. Attached is a "Myths versus Facts" piece that will give you the further information on this matter.

Sincerely,



Del Yaroch

President

Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association

Attachment

Myths Versus Facts

Myth: The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (DOC) claims that it stopped the comparison between the IFC and NFPA 1/101 because the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association (WSFCA) withdrew its support for IBC.

Fact: The WSFCA never supported the IBC. It did, however, agree to the adoption of a modified Comm. 14 and the IBC as a placeholder only until a thorough comparison was completed between the IFC and NFPA 1/101.

Myth: According to the DoC, WSFCA has never raised technical objections to the IFC.

Fact: This is simply not true. WSFCA and other members of the Wisconsin fire service have repeatedly emphasized to the DoC that the IFC pales in comparison to NFPA 1 and 101 when it comes to technical provisions addressing existing buildings and fire fighter safety.

Myth: DoC claims that the Fire Safety Code Council strongly endorsed adoption of the IFC and IBC.

Fact: After intense discussion and debate, the FSCC voted by a narrow 5-4 margin to adopt IFC/IBC. All fire service representatives on the FSCC, with the exception of the Madison representative, voted in support of the NFPA suite of codes and against adoption of IFC/IBC.

Myth: The DoC maintains that the Wisconsin fire service has representation on the Commercial Code Council.

Fact: In reality, there is only one Wisconsin fire service representative on the entire Commercial Code Council. The vast majority of this council is made of building-related officials such as American Institute of Architects, Associated General Contractors, Wisconsin Building Inspectors, City of Milwaukee (building representative), Wisconsin Realtors, Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers, the building owners and Wisconsin Department of Administration, insurance industry representatives, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, and the Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin.

Myth: The DoC maintains that WSFCA's recommendation to incorporate NFPA 1/101 with the IBC so that the most restrictive rule would always apply in order to avoid conflicts was not possible and unworkable.

Fact: In fact, the drafts of the amended Wisconsin Commercial Building (Chapter 61.03(2)) and Fire Prevention Codes (66.0003(2)), which adopt the IBC and IFC, state, "where

rules of the department specify conflicting requirements, types of material, methods, processes or procedures, the most restrictive rule shall govern.”

Myth: The DoC claims that the NFPA 1/101 would not work due to compatibility problems with regard to state health care facilities.

Fact: In addition to meeting requirements by the Wisconsin building code, all health care facilities in Wisconsin and, in fact in the United States, are required to meet the provisions of NFPA 101. Further, NFPA 1/101 are the only fire and life safety codes that are being used successfully with all three model building codes in the United States.

Myth: The DoC states that it cannot adopt NFPA 1 because it will undergo numerous changes due to the agreement between NFPA and the Western Fire Chiefs’ Association to develop a harmonized fire code.

Fact: The original purpose of the review was to compare the 2000 editions of NFPA 1/101 and the IFC. It makes no sense to cancel a review of these codes based on the fact that the 2003 edition of the NFPA 1/Uniform Fire Code may change. Future editions of all codes are always subject to change. With this rationale, any comparisons of model codes would never take place for fear that the codes might change in a future edition.

In addition, the DoC was conducting comparisons in 1998 based on drafts of the IFC and IBC based on drafts. WSFCA conducted its own comparison on NFPA 1/101 and IFC in 1998, and asked DoC to participate; yet DoC indicated at that time that it had already made the decision to adopt the ICC suite of codes.

Myth: The DoC says it cannot continue using the current WI building code and fire prevention code because it prevents them from enhancing public safety.

Fact: The current Wisconsin Commercial Building Code has been in existence since 1914. Therefore, DoC has no basis to make claims that public safety cannot be enhanced if it does not immediately adopt the ICC suite of codes. A review of the ICC and NFPA codes will take only two years. Furthermore, the adoption of the ICC suite of codes would do nothing to address the key public safety issues of fire fighter safety and technical provisions regarding existing buildings.

Myth: The DoC has stated that the “Wisconsinisms” (amendments) to NFPA 1/101 would be far too numerous and cause major compatibility problems.

Fact: The fact of the matter is that the proposed amendments to the IFC and IBC are numerous. There are currently over 225 pages of amendments to the ICC suite of codes being considered for adoption.

Myth: According to the DoC, the ICC suite of codes is *the* preferred suite of codes to adopt for Wisconsin.

Fact: The ICC codes do not provide adequate provisions for existing buildings or fire fighter safety. Conversely the NFPA 101 is undisputedly the most comprehensive existing buildings code in the world, which is of paramount concern to the fire service.

In addition, adoption of the ICC codes would come at a significant cost to the taxpayers of Wisconsin. Adoption of the aforementioned NFPA codes would occur at no cost to the taxpayers. NFPA will provide all Wisconsin government enforcers who attend our free training sessions complimentary copies of these documents. This offer not only includes the NFPA 1, 101 and 5000 (Building Code), but also the major reference documents. This no-cost offer will be repeated each time the state adopts updated editions of the codes. In fact, on numerous occasions in the past, NFPA has provided these complimentary services to Wisconsin code enforcers, saving thousands of taxpayers' dollars. In addition to the cost savings, this NFPA service ensures that every jurisdiction in the state, regardless of its size or resources, will have up-to-date codes and receive training from the top experts in the field. No other code organization is willing make this commitment.

Myth: DoC claims that chapter 66 of the draft of the amended Wisconsin fire prevention code, which adopts the IFC, adequately addresses fire fighter safety and retroactivity issues.

Fact: There was absolutely no mention of fire fighter safety in the draft of the amended Wisconsin fire code until the WSFCA met with the DoC to bring this to their attention. Even after the WSFCA expressed these concerns, the DoC provided window dressing to the issue by simply adding the words "fire fighter" under the safety section in the *Purpose of Code* of the amended code. There are no substantive changes to the amended code that properly address the fire fighter safety of the WSFCA.

Conversely, as mentioned earlier, NFPA 101 addresses specific fire fighter safety and retroactivity issues.

Myth: The DoC claims that it strongly supports the Wisconsin fire service and values their input in the code adoption process.

Fact: The actions of the DoC do not support this claim for the following reasons:

- DoC coordinators involved with the code adoption process did not attend the Wisconsin Fire Inspectors' Association Conference. A clear signal that DoC did not value the WFIA's input during this timely discussion of the issues.
- The DoC has cancelled the agreed-upon review of the NFPA 1/101 and IFC codes.
- The membership of the DoC advisory councils is weighted disproportionately to building interests with virtually no representation from the Wisconsin fire service.

- The DoC has used the two percent audit dues in its own interests and against the interests of the Wisconsin fire service. Example: It has used the proceeds from the collection of these dues to attend the ICC conference.
- The DoC made the decision to drop the County Code Seminars to help educate the Wisconsin fire service on critical issues.
- Guidelines provided to the Wisconsin fire service for conducting the fire audits in order to collect the two percent dues are vague and subject to interpretation by DOC.

###



MARSHFIELD

The City in the Center

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

412 East Fourth Street • Marshfield, WI 54449

GREGG A. CLEVELAND, FIRE CHIEF

OFFICE: (715) 384-5087

FAX: (715) 384-8868

PAGER: 1-800-200-1964

email: gregg@ci.marshfield.wi.us

*THANK
The 1500
about
to move
here*

THE WISCONSIN FIRE & EMS LEGISLATIVE
LEADERSHIP COALITION WELCOMES YOU TO OUR
4TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association
Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association

Wisconsin Fire Chiefs' Education Association

Wisconsin Society of Fire Service Instructors

Wisconsin Chapter of the Int'l Arson Investigators' Association

Wisconsin State Firefighters Association

Wisconsin EMS Association



THE ISSUE

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS
FAST TRACKING ADOPTION OF:

- *International Fire Code*
- *International Building Code*

THIS ACTION COMPLETELY DISREGARDS
THE CONCERNS OF THE
WISCONSIN FIRE SERVICE



OUR POSITION

Together with the support of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and others, we have gone on record supporting:

- ◆ NFPA 1, *Fire Prevention Code*®
- ◆ NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*®

We OPPOSE the adoption of the *International Fire Code* and the *International Building Code*

WHY NFPA CODES?

- Long history of usage; a proven track record
- Completely open code development process
- Well balanced codes grounded in science
- No cost to WI taxpayers on certain codes
- Free training sessions from top experts in the field

NO OTHER CODE ORGANIZATION MAKES THIS
COMMITMENT

CODE TALK

- More than 100 NFPA codes & standards are referenced throughout the IFC and the IBC.
- NFPA 1 is used in 14 states with all three model codes and has proven compatible.
- NFPA 101 is the most comprehensive code addressing existing properties; it is used in all 50 states.
- All building codes adopt by reference NFPA fire safety specialty codes, such as the NEC, F&CLC, LPGC, and others.

OUR CONCERNS

- The Wisconsin Fire Service supports the NFPA code development process because we have input and rely on these codes to perform our jobs day in and day out!
- The Department of Commerce has not carried through with the recommendation of the Fire Safety Code Council's to evaluate NFPA 1/101 and the IFC.



CONCLUSION

THE WISCONSIN FIRE & EMS LEGISLATIVE
LEADERSHIP COALITION IS COMMITTED
TO MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS
OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY
IN OUR STATE.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

*We thank you for attending our Legislative Breakfast this
morning and thank you for your continued support of
Wisconsin's fire service .*



Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

Together We Can Make A Difference

- Education
- Prevention
- Safety
- Suppression
- EMS

DATE: February 15, 2001
TO: Wisconsin Legislators
FROM: Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association
RE: Petition Supporting a Comparison of the ICC & NFPA Model Codes

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association is providing you with the attached copy of a petition, which was circulated the last several weeks throughout the fire service in the State of Wisconsin. This is a copy for your reference, the original is filed with the Department of Commerce, to show the unanimous support from the fire service in Wisconsin to delay the adoption of a building and fire code until a side by side comparison can be completed. We have also included a copy of the WI Fire & EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition request for a delay in adoption of the codes until a comparison of the ICC & NFPA suite of codes is complete.

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association is very concerned with the process that has been used by the Department of Commerce to date in forwarding the IBC & IFC to hearings and next to the adoption step without a comparison being completed. We are responsible for the safety of every resident and firefighter of this state. The petitions, which were circulated in few short weeks, contain over 1700 signatures of fire service professionals who are concerned with the process as well. In addition, representatives of over 100 fire services across the State of Wisconsin attended the hearings, regarding the adoption of the IBC & IFC, registering and speaking in support of a delay in the adoption until a comparison of the ICC & NFPA Model Codes are complete.

If any any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call David Bloom, Legislative Liaison of the WI State Fire Chiefs Association at 608-210-7218.

P.O Box 44743, Madison, WI 53744-4743
Phone: 1-800-375-5886 Fax: 608-274-8262

WI Fire & EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition

WI Fire & EMS Legislative Coalition

Proposed Legislation Agreement

The Associations of the WI Fire & EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition to **Support the Delay of the Adoption of a New State Building and Fire Code until the National Fire Protection Association Suite of Codes is Completed and a Comparison can Be Completed between the ICC and NFPA Suite of Codes.** The initial date of signing of this agreement is January 15, 2001.

PROFESSIONAL
FIRE FIGHTERS OF
WI, INC.

Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin, Inc.

Russell G. Galt

WI CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL
ARSON
INVESTIGATORS
ASSOCIATION

WI Chapter International Arson Investigators

Lawrence E. Eastman

WI FIRE CHIEFS
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

WI Fire Chiefs Education Association

Robert J. ...

WI FIRE
INSPECTORS
ASSOCIATION

WI Fire Inspectors Association

Robert J. ...

WI SOCIETY OF
FIRE SERVICE
INSTRUCTORS

WI Society of Fire Service Instructors

Arthur M. Scola

WI STATE FIRE
CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION

WI State Fire Chiefs Association

David Blum

WI STATE
FIRE FIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION

WI State Firefighters Association

James Turner

WI EMS Association

Robert M. Miller



Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

Together We Can Make A Difference

- Education
- Prevention
- Safety
- Suppression
- EMS

DATE: February 9, 2001

TO: Department of Commerce

FROM: Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association

RE: Petition Supporting the Delay of the Adoption of the IBC & IFC

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association and the Wisconsin Fire & EMS Coalition, an organization of eight Wisconsin Fire & EMS Organizations, support delaying adoption of any Building or Fire Code until a comparison of the ICC & NFPA Codes can be completed. The State of Wisconsin has had its own codes for over eighty-five years. The current Wisconsin Codes can be utilized another two years, until an adequate comparison could be completed of the ICC & NFPA suites of codes. Until a comparison of these two suites of codes has been completed the signatures of this petition support the delay in adoption of any new State Codes.

Wisconsin will miss the opportunity to adopt the most comprehensive suite of codes for the State of Wisconsin if a careful analysis is not completed prior to adoption. Each day we read and hear of disasters killing and/or injuring citizens as well as firefighters throughout this country and the world. Many times during the investigation in the aftermath of the disaster we learn that inadequate codes contributed or even were the cause of the injuries and/or loss of life.

During the comparison we urge the various code councils to maintain and update the current codes to meet the needs of code enforcement and safety of the residents of the State of Wisconsin.